

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Exercises of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div and the 20th Gds Mecz Div 25X1

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED 20 April 1955 25X1

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information

25X1

1. The following shipments arrived from the direction of Ohrdruf and were unloaded at the Gera railroad station on 11 and 12 March 1955:

25X1

11 March. At 2100, a shipment of 7 boxcars and 20 flatcars with sideracks carrying 11 guns, 11 tractors, trucks and some 150 soldiers.

At 2300, a shipment similar to that at 2100.

12 March. At 2200, a shipment of 5 to 6 boxcars and 15 to 18 flatcars with sideracks carrying 8 gun howitzers, 8 tractors, 10 to 15 trucks and some 100 soldiers.

At midnight, a shipment similar to that at 2200. ¹

2. At 0200 on 13 March, a train arrived at Gera from the direction of Ohrdruf and proceeded toward Plauen after the engines had been exchanged. The train carried trucks and mortars. ¹

3. On 17 March, a shipment of motor vehicles and some 400 soldiers was reportedly unloaded in Plauen. The unit subsequently left for the Hindenburg Kaserne (8442).¹

25X1

4. On 21 March, the installations of the Meiningen post were normally occupied. No unusual activity was observed.¹

5. On 19 March, the unit stationed in the Reuss Kaserne (8141) in Gera prepared for departure. No shipment left Gera prior to 1600. Subsequently, several trains, the load of which included 12 guns, reportedly left Gera.

On 21 March, the Reuss Kaserne appeared to be only 50 percent occupied.²

6. Between 27 February and 20 March, the following trains were loaded in Weimar: 6 trains for Ohrdruf, 9 trains for Crawinkel and 2 trains, which left toward Weissenfels, for an undetermined destination.²

25X1

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

SECRET

- 2 -

25X1

25X1

7. At about 0240 on 22 March, a shipment of 1 boxcar and 2 six-axle flatcars carrying 2 JS-2 tanks and 20 soldiers arrived in Weimar. The shipment, which was attached to a regular freight train, came from Crawinkel near Ohrdruf and proceeded to Jena-West.²
8. On 22 March, exercises of Soviet units were conducted in the Arnstadt area. In the evening, several roads in Arnstadt and vicinity were blocked to civilian traffic.²
9. In the evening of 23 March, several columns of heavily soiled vehicles arrived at the Weimar post. They included a column with 6 x 120-mm mortars, 3 mortars heavier than 120-mm, and 4 x 122-mm field howitzers at 1830; a column with 6 AT guns of 60 to 90 mm and 4 x 85-mm AA guns at 1930, and a third column which included 6 T-34 tanks.²
10. On 23 March, a large column arrived in Weimar from the direction of the autobahn and entered the Tannenbergs Kaserne (8502). The column consisted of 500 to 600 soldiers wearing red-bordered black and black-bordered crimson epaulets and carrying light field equipment, some 100 motor vehicles, including 20 to 30 armored personnel carriers, 6 radio trucks, 18 field kitchens, 8 heavy mortars, 9 x 37-mm AA guns, 5 x 85-mm AA guns and 7 T-34 tanks.²
11. The following loadings were observed in Zeitz on 18 and 19 March:
- 18 March. At 2000, 26 trucks, 2 field kitchens, 6 x 57-mm AT guns, 4 x 120-mm mortars, and 500 to 600 soldiers wearing black-bordered red and red-bordered black epaulets.
- At 2200, 12 T-34/85 tanks and 1 salvage tank.
- 19 March. At about 2100, 12 trucks, 4 repair shop trucks, 6 tank trucks, 9 x 120-mm mortars, 8 T-34/85 tanks and 2 SU-100 guns.²
12. On 24 March, the following columns went from the Zeitz railroad station to the barracks installations:
0630. 26 trucks, 12 x 120-mm mortars, 8 x 57-mm AT guns, 2 armored personnel carriers, and 4 tank trucks.
0730. 12 trucks, 4 armored personnel carriers, and 4 repair shop trucks.
0900. 8 T-34/85 tanks and 1 tank truck.
0930. 2 T-34/85 tanks and 2 SU-100 guns.
- Between 1600 and 1700, trucks, armored personnel carriers and tanks were being cleaned in front of the barracks installations on Friedensstrasse (8541/8542).
1. Comment. elements of the 112th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt and the 87th Gun Arty Regt left Plauen between 7 and 11 March. On 7 March, elements of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div which came from firing practices at Altengrabow went to Arnstadt on 4 trains. On the same day, truck columns, 8 SU-76 guns and 10 AT guns were seen en

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

- 3 -

25X1

route from Arnstadt to Ilmenau. [redacted] These observations, in connection with the present report, tend to indicate that the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div conducted an exercise in the Ohrdruf-Arnstadt-Ilmenau area about 7 to 12 March. The exercise probably involved elements of the 308th Arty Brig of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps, which is indicated by the date of return of these elements from Ohrdruf to Gera.

25X1

2. [redacted] Comment. According to this information, the 20th Gds Mecz Div conducted an exercise in the Ohrdruf-Arnstadt area about 19 to 22 March, which probably also involved elements of the 308th Arty Brig of the XXVIII Mtz Rifle Corps and, quite definitely, elements of the army artillery of the Eighth Gds Army. [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] 4 trains went from Altenburg to Ohrdruf on 19 March.

25X1

25X1

25X1

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

25X1